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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the health of

SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

For the Year 1963



Report presented by

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

COUNCIL OFFICES  
FOREBURY  
SAWBRIDGEWORTH







EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS  
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1963.  
SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

PREFACE

Mr. Chairman Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the Health of the Urban District of Sawbridgeworth for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

The increase in the population has again been small, being only 50; 20 less than that of the previous year. The live births fell from 74 to 68 and the total number of deaths rose from 40 to 54. Once again there were no maternal deaths.

The health of the Urban District was excellent apart from the customary biennial outbreak of measles during the first half of the year. The promotion of community health is by no means a one way activity on the part of Public Health Departments and elsewhere in this report I have drawn attention to ways in which the general public can co-operate in efforts to minimize the possibilities of introducing typhoid fever. Public co-operation is also necessary to carry out successful immunisation against smallpox and poliomyelitis. If the facilities available are not utilised, the public suffers.

The proposed function of the Councils sewer to the new main sewer from Bishop's Stortford to Ryemeads receives constant thought, but it is unlikely that the new sewer will be completed for some years to come. In the meantime the existing plant at Sawbridgeworth tends to become overloaded with occasional ill effects upon the standard of the effluent. This, in turn, will hamper new building and development until a completely satisfactory disposal system is at work.

Once again I wish to thank the members of the Public Health Committee and the Council for their constant support and for their keen interest in health problems.

My thanks are also due to the other Chief Officers for their assistance and in particular to Mr. Ford and Mr. Berry who make my path constantly smoother.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant.

Gordon M. Frizelle.





PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Gordon M. Frizelle, T.D., M.D., D.P.H., Certificate in  
Radiological Protection.

Central Office: Council Offices,  
High Street,  
HODDESDON, Herts.

(Office Telephone: Hoddesdon 3061. Private: Ware 2746).

Deputy (Part Time) Medical Officer of Health.

Peter de Bec TURTLE, VRD., M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Haileybury and Imperial Service College,  
Hertford Heath.

Telephone: Hoddesdon 2040.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (and Surveyor).

C. A. Ford. Certificate of the R.S.I., and S.I.E.J. Board,  
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and other  
Foods, Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
The Forebury,  
Sawbridgeworth, Herts. (Telephone: Sawbridgeworth 2161).

Clerical duties to the Public Health Department were carried out by  
Mr. R. A. Berry, Assistant Surveyor, with typing assistance  
from Mrs. P. J. Ince.

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COMMITTEE CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health matters are dealt with by the Highways, Public  
Health, Allotments and Lighting Committee, comprised of all the  
Members of the Council.

The Chairman of the Committee for the session of 1963/1964 was  
Councillor F. J. Clay.





S E C T I O N    A

GENERAL STATISTICS 1963.

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1962 are shown in brackets).

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Sawbridgeworth:	4,820	(4,770).
Natural increase or decrease	.....	+ 14
Migration in or out	.....	+ <u>36</u>
Total increase or decrease	.....	+ <u><u>50</u></u>

GENERAL STATISTICS.

<u>Area in Acres</u>	.....	2,678
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Book:	1,620	(1,596)
Number of houses per acre	.....	0.64
Number of persons per acre	.....	1.80
Number of persons per house.	.....	2.79
<u>Rateable Value of District</u>	.....	£93,064
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.....	£846

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# VITAL STATISTICS.

(Table 2)

Figures for 1962 are shown in brackets)

## LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	31 (43)	35 (28)	66 (71)
Illegitimate	0 (2)	2 (1)	2 (3)
Total Live Births	31 (45)	37 (29)	68 (74)
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		14.11 (15.51)	
Area Comparability Factor for Births		1.14 (0.97)	
Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		11.93 (15.05)	
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live births		3.12 (4.05)	

## STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total Still Births	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Still Births rate per 1,000	0.0 (13.33)		

## TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	31 (44)	35 (28)	66 (72)
Illegitimate	0 (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)
Total Live and Still Births	31 (46)	37 (29)	68 (75)



Figures for 1965 are shown in brackets.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	31 (43)	35 (58)	66 (101)
Illegitimate	0 (5)	5 (1)	5 (6)
Total Live Births	31 (48)	40 (59)	71 (107)
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.11 (15.21)		
Area Coefficient Factor for Births	1.14 (0.92)		
Standardized Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	11.93 (12.05)		

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	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total Still Births	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Still Births rate per 1,000	0.0 (13.55)		

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	31 (44)	35 (58)	66 (102)
Illegitimate	0 (5)	5 (1)	5 (6)
Total Live and Still Births	31 (49)	40 (59)	71 (108)



# VITAL STATISTICS (Continued)

## INFANT DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Infants under one week, total	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Legitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Infants under four weeks, total	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Legitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Infants under one year, total	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Legitimate	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

## INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	14.70 (13.51)
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births.	15.0 (13.51)
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0.0 (0.0)
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	14.70 (0.0)
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under one week per 1,000 total live births)	0.0 (0.0)
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still- births and deaths of infants under one week combined - per 1,000 total live and still births).	0.0 (21.74)







VITAL STATISTICS (continued).

MATERNAL DEATHS

Maternal Deaths, including abortion	0.0 (0)
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births.	0.0 (0)

DEATHS (total)

Deaths of all ages	Males	27 (20)
-	Females	27 (20)
	Total	54 (40)
Death Rate per 1,000 population		11.23 (8.38)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths		1.08 (1.03)
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population		12.10 (8.63)

<u>COMPARISON RATES</u>	<u>Sawbridgeworth U.D.C.</u>	<u>Hertford County</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Live Birth Rate	14.11	18.32	18.2
Area Comparability Factor	1.14	0.95	-
Standardised Birth Rate	11.93	17.40	18.2
Still Births Rate	0.0	15.62	17.3
Infant Mortality Rate	14.70	15.05	21
Legitimate	15.0	14.9	-
Illegitimate	0.0	16.61	-
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	14.70	10.05	14.2
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	0.0	8.87	-
Perinatal Mortality Rate	0.0	24.35	-
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.0	0.37	0.28
Death Rate	11.23	9.67	-
Area Comparability Factor	1.08	1.13	-
Standardised Rate	12.10	10.93	12.2





PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year.

	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Measles	24	89	2	Nil	115
Dysentery	1	2	Nil	Nil	3
Acute Pneumonia	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Commencement of Year -

Males : Pulmonary - 4 Non-Pulmonary - Nil

Females : Pulmonary - 8 Non-Pulmonary - 2.

One New Case

One removed from Register

Remaining on Register:-

Males : Pulmonary - 4 Non-Pulmonary - Nil

Females : Pulmonary - 8 Non-Pulmonary - 2.





# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1963.

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	ALL CAUSES.	27	27
11.	Tuberculoses, respiratory	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	-
11.	" " Lung, Bronchus	1	1
12.	" " Breast	-	2
13.	" " uterus	-	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	2
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	3
18.	Coronary disease, angina	10	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
20.	Other heart disease	2	4
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	2
22.	Influenza	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	1	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29.	Hyperphasia of prostate	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
34.	All other accidents	1	1
35.	Suicide	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-
(a)	Still Births	-	-
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	-	-
(c)	Deaths of infants four weeks to one year of age	-	0





## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Once again the Sawbridgeworth population increase has been a slight one, amounting only to 50. The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population for 1963 was 4,820, while that for 1962 was 4,770. The increase in the last three years has been only 140. The natural increase for 1963 was 14 and the inward migration 36.

The total number of inhabited houses rose from 1,596 to 1,620, the number of houses per acre from 0.59 to 0.64, the number of persons per acre from 1.77 to 1.80 whilst the number of persons per house fell from 3.0 to 2.79.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of live births fell from 74 to 68 and the still births fell from 1 to 0.

The deaths of infants under 1 year of age remained at 1 and once again there were no maternal deaths.

The total number of deaths at all ages rose from 40 to 54.

## CAUSES OF DEATH

All forms of heart disease were again responsible for the greatest number of deaths, being 24 or 44% of the total of 54. Of these 24, Coronary disease accounted for 13, the majority occurring between the ages of 55 and 75. Malignant disease in all forms, including leukaemia, came second with 11 deaths of which only 2 were due to Cancer of the Lung. The third highest cause of death was vascular disease of the nervous system and as might be expected these occurred at the latter stages of life. There was 1 death due to a motor vehicle accident and 1 accidental death due to a fall. This disagrees with the Registrar General's figure of 2 accidental deaths. These accidents occurred in persons over the age of 75. The death of the infant under 1 year of age was occasioned by congenital malformations.

Deaths over the age of 70 were as follows:-

<u>70 - 79</u>	<u>80 - 89</u>	<u>90 - 99</u>
18	14	2





## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Apart from a small outbreak of measles during the first half of the year there is little of consequence to record. The outbreak of typhoid in the neighbouring town of Harlow lead inevitably to the appearance of contacts in the district but a close check on these revealed no persons suffering from the disease.

Events taking place in recent years have shown that the United Kingdom does not enjoy immunity from typhoid fever. Such immunity can only be brought about by constant vigilance and by taking active steps in which the general public can participate.

With regard to such steps I would recommend:-

- (1) That all people contemplating holidays abroad, especially in Southern Europe and North Africa, should consult their own Doctors on the availability of getting T.A.B. injections.
- (2) That all firms of food handlers, whether large or small, should send one or more responsible persons to attend courses on food hygiene and food handling. Many such courses are now available both in London and at provincial centres.

The successful practice of preventive or protective medicine depends ultimately on public participation. The Medical profession aided by many ancillary bodies makes constant efforts in the field of Health Education, but without co-operation from the general public such efforts are fruitless.

## FOOD HYGIENE.

During the year the following notices were offered to the owners of food premises.

NO SMOKING. The staff of this shop are prohibited by law from smoking whilst handling open food.

In the interests of food hygiene, customers are requested to refrain from smoking.

DOGS. In the interests of food hygiene it is requested that dogs should not be brought into these premises.

In many cases this notice was accepted.





### TUBERCULOSIS.

At the beginning of the year there were 14 cases on the register, two of those being non-pulmonary. During the year one new case was discovered and one was removed from the register, so that by the end of the year the total number was still 14, two being non pulmonary.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951.

No action under Section 47 of these Acts were required.

### BUILDING.

During the year the Council built 4 flats and 2 old persons bungalows. 68 houses were erected by private enterprise.

### PUBLICATIONS.

Radiation Hazards and The Medical Officer of Health.

The Medical Officer, April, 1963.





## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR SAWBRIDGEWORTH

#### LABORATORY SERVICE.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Herts and Essex General Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES.

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, are available in the District. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

#### Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses : 3                      Welfare Centre : 1

#### Vaccinations against Smallpox, Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis Diphtheria and Tetanus

Medical Officers at the Welfare Centre will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

#### Home and Domestic Help.

Applications for this Service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 25a, Portland Road, Bishop's Stortford, (Telephone: Bishop's Stortford 332).

A charge may be made for this Service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

#### Care and After-Care.

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant, should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A Medical Loan Depot has been established at Bishop's Stortford.

A charge may be made for both the above Services.





### Ambulance Service.

There is an Ambulance Station at Bishop's Stortford (Telephone: Bishop's Stortford 1101). Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a medical practitioner.

### Day Nurseries.

There is no Day Nursery at Sawbridgeworth.

### Mental Health.

Arrangements for patients requiring treatment under the Mental Health Act, 1959 can be made by their own Doctors or by the Mental Health Officer, Mr. J. H. Webster, Collett Road, Ware, Herts. (Telephone:- Ware 2541).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been established in Hertford.

### Hospital Services.

Sawbridgeworth is served chiefly by the Herts and Essex General Hospital (formerly Haymeads) and by the Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital.

These Hospitals are managed by the Hertford Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

### General Practitioner Medical Services.

Two General Practitioners reside and practise in Sawbridgeworth: but the Town is also served by Practitioners in the Harlow (Essex) and Bishop's Stortford localities.

### Dental Service.

Dental Practitioners are available in adjoining towns.

### Old People's Welfare Association.

This body is very active in Sawbridgeworth and in addition to its other functions, has for a number of years been responsible for a much needed Chiropody Service.

### Other Services.

There is a Mortuary owned and managed by the Urban District Council. Blood Transfusion Donor Sessions are held at the Memorial Hall.





## S E C T I O N   C .

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The piped supply is provided by the Lee Valley Water Company to 1,725 premises.

74 premises in the District, including new houses, were connected to the mains during the year, leaving four dwellings in Spellbrook which are supplied from privately-owned wells.

The water supply to the district has been regularly sampled throughout the year and submitted for analysis. 123 samples were sent for analysis for bacteriological examination and in each case the water showed no evidence of contamination. 14 water samples were sent to the Laboratory for chemical analysis and the reports showed that all samples conformed to Standards of purity suitable for public supply.

#### DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Most of the District is served by main drainage. Sewage is disposed of at two sewage works. The effluent at the principal works is discharged into the River Stort after purification and in the case of the other (smaller) works, it is disposed of by septic tank treatment followed by land irrigation.

Five out of eleven samples of effluent taken from the Central Sewage Works for analysis were satisfactory upon analysis. Six samples were slightly high in suspended matter, and B.O.D. content.

The Lee Conservancy Catchment Board are concerned about the Standard of the final effluent and the Council are making every effort to expedite the connection of the Council's sewer to the proposed trunk sewer from Bishop's Stortford Urban District.



## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Household refuse is collected weekly and is disposed of by controlled tipping at Harlow U.D.C. Tip. Special arrangements are made in connection with trade refuse. Large articles are collected free of charge by the Council.

## PARTICULARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK.

Summary of Visits:-                      During the year 1963.

Public Health Acts	...	....	....	...	203
Housing Acts	...	....	....	...	84
Food and Drugs Act	...	....	....	...	129
Factories Act	...	....	....	...	83
Miscellaneous	...	....	....	...	<u>275</u>
					<u>774</u>
Number of informal Notices served	....	...			3
Number of Statutory Notices served	....	...			Nil

## HOUSING ACTS 1936-1959

### NEW HOUSING.

The Council constructed 4 flats and 2 old persons bungalows and 6 garages at Sheering Mill Lane during 1963. 10 old persons bungalows are proposed at Vantorts Road. Work on the construction of the following will be commenced early in 1964.

One block of 24 flats.  
One block of 5 flats and 5 maisonettes.  
One block of 4 houses.  
Four blocks of 2 houses with attached garages.  
One block of 2 and one block of 3 old peoples bungalows.  
36 lock-up garages and ancilliary works.

68 private dwellings were erected during the year.

### HOUSING AND HOUSE PURCHASE ACT, 1959.

Five applications were received from applicants for standard grants in respect of five dwellings, all of which were granted.

The Council have under consideration improvements to 56 Council Houses.





FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

MILK.

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk	..	..	1
Number of Dairies	..	..	1

The Dairy was inspected on fourteen occasions during the year. Purveyors' delivery vehicles also receive frequent inspection.

Ice Cream.

No Ice Cream is manufactured in the district. There are twelve registered premises who sell wrapped ice cream, and regular inspections are carried out.

Unsound Food

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and were surrendered:-

<u>Category</u>	<u>No. of Tins or Containers.</u>	<u>Weight in lb.</u>
Meat (tinned).	4	14
		Total Weight: 14 lbs.

(1962 Total - 139 lbs.)

Shops and other premises engaged in the sale and preparation of foodstuffs number 38. This number is made up as follows:-

Butchers	4
Grocers and Provision Merchants	10
Bakehouses	2
Fish Shops	1
Cafes, Public Houses etc.,	6
Institutional Kitchen, Schools and Industrial Canteens	9
Greengrocers.	5

129 visits were made to these food premises during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

No charge is made in respect of private dwellings.

Routine Sewer treatments were carried out twice during the year, and the Council Tip and Sewage Works were similarly treated.

RODENT CONTROL - Summary of Work Done.

Total number of premises inspected	208
Number of premises infested	34
Number of premises treated by the Council	34
Total number of visits and re-visits	316





PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	18	37	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	5	46	-	-
Total	23	83	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	

Want of cleanliness (S.1.)  
Overcrowding (S.2).  
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3).  
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).

NIL







Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).  Sanitary conveniences (S.7). (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective. (c) Not separate for sexes.  Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.			N I L		

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work  (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions. (7)
Wearing Apparel	4	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	-	-	-	-	-



